April 8, 2009

OBEY IN WOOD COUNTY FOR UPDATES ON WATER PROJECTS

WOOD COUNTY, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Nekoosa and Biron today to get updates on how the towns are using $2.5 million in federal funds he secured to help them improve their water and wastewater infrastructure. Obey has been working with both communities, which have been hit hard economically with significant job losses, to help ease the pressure on local property tax and to expand worker training

"The basic building blocks for community growth, like access to clean water, good roads, and efficient sewers, cost a lot even in the best of times. And these certainly aren't the best times," Obey said. "So I'm glad we were able to get these dollars to help move these projects along and reduce the burden that would otherwise fall on local property-tax payers."

For Biron, Obey secured $1.225 million to help extend sewer and water services from the planned Wood County Business Park in Biron to the City of Wisconsin Rapids East Commerce Business Park. The project is intended to maximize the economic impact of the Business Park as well as provide the greatest environmental safeguards possible for adjacent cranberry agriculture and the Wisconsin River-Biron Flowage.

Obey also secured $1.225 million to help Nekoosa improve its wastewater treatment facility. The federal funds are intended to help increase Nekoosa's regular wastewater treatment capacity by nearly 25%, and also increase the town's ability to handle large increases in wastewater flow during extreme rainfall events, thus preventing the bypassing of untreated or partially treated wastewater into the Wisconsin River or the back-up of such flow into local basements or ground surface. Additionally, the treatment plant upgrade will provide a benefit to the local business park by providing capacity needed to attract a diversified industrial base. That, in turn, could mean job retention and job creation for the community.

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